

we all are governed, but we are also uniquely acquainted with our own limitations. Polls may indeed show that a majority of our constituents today would simply like to see our current immigration laws enforced, but we are in a position to know that such is unreasonable.

Deciding whether our role is to lead or to follow is not a new conundrum. During the Constitutional Convention in 1787, George Washington counseled: "If to please the people we do what we ourselves disprove, how can we afterwards defend our work?" It might be comfortable in an election year to warm ourselves by the populist fire that we ourselves have stoked, but it is not leadership.

Leaders appeal to the better angels of our nature rather than bow to the manifestations of our baser instincts. The standard bearer of the modern conservative movement, Ronald Reagan, understood this very well when he talked about the shining city on the hill. In his farewell address he described this, "a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity, and if there had to be city walls," he said, "the walls had doors and the doors were open to anyone with the will to enter."

I hope that that is how we see it today.

DEMOCRATS UNVEIL PLAN FOR REAL SECURITY

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Democrats in the House, the Senate and our Governors unveiled the Democratic plan for real security. This plan reveals the difference between the Democrats and the Republicans and the Bush administration in protecting our country.

Among the differences, the greatest danger we face is that al Qaeda gets nuclear weapons. The problem with getting nuclear weapons is how to find fissionable material. There is enough fissionable material lying around not properly guarded in the former Soviet Union for thousands of bombs. The Bush administration wants to get it out of there—in 30 years. Democrats say, Get it now, all of it, by 2010 before it is smuggled to al Qaeda to make nuclear weapons to use against American citizens.

We are rightly concerned about the Dubai Ports deal, who controls our ports, but more important is what comes into our ports. Eleven million shipping containers a year, 40-foot boxes, come into American ports. The Republicans, the Bush administration, inspects 5 percent of them. Democrats say, no shipping container, not one, should be put on a ship bound to an American port till it is electronically scanned and inspected by the United States in the foreign port so that no

atomic bomb gets put in there and we know about it before it gets on the ship, not after.

If we want to make our country safe, we better elect some Democrats.

CONGRATULATING OHIO GIRLS' STATE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL CHAMPION MOUNT NOTRE DAME COUGARS

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, while I was at home last week in Ohio's First Congressional District, I had the honor of attending a pep rally at Mount Notre Dame High School. The school spirit in that gym was really something to behold. Of course there was cause for celebration, since the Cougars captured their second Ohio girls' State basketball championship in the last 3 years with an overall record of 25-3. The Cougars faced a difficult road to the championship, including a regional final victory over a tough Oak Hills Lady Scots team, which also happens to be in my congressional district.

Mount Notre Dame basketball has become synonymous with success throughout the State of Ohio. Not only have they appeared in the State finals 3 years in a row, but this victory made the Cougars the first Cincinnati girls' basketball program to capture two State titles. It is also important to note that Mount Notre Dame excels in academics.

It is a great honor for me to recognize the success and achievements of these outstanding young women, their head coach Scott Rogers, his staff and the entire student body. Their hard work and dedication makes all Cincinnatians proud.

Go Cougars.

LOBBYING REFORM

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, it is time for a spring clean at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. In the wake of the Jack Abramoff scandal, public approval for this Congress is at an all-time low and voters are demanding new priorities for America. But rather than working to restore the public's trust, some are more interested in protecting the culture of business as usual. They are perfectly happy with their cozy relationships where highly paid lobbyists serve as their "back office," writing legislation, providing jobs to Members and relatives, and lavishing them with expensive dinners and trips.

Yesterday, for instance, the Senate missed an opportunity for real reform when it rejected new restrictions on lobbyist-sponsored travel, presidential libraries, and, most importantly, an independent office of public integrity.

Think about it. You can't take a ham sandwich from a lobbyist but you can

get on their private plane with a ham sandwich. That is what they are allowed to do. You could drive a truck through those types of reforms. The House Ethics Committee hasn't even met in more than a year when one Member here has pled guilty and three others are under investigation.

Mr. Speaker, the American people won't accept the continuation of business as usual under the guise of real reform. When that gavel comes down, it is intended to open the people's House, not the auction house.

It is time for new priorities in America.

HIGHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give the American people some straight talk on higher education. The Higher Education Act before Congress today will strengthen the Pell Grant program, expand Perkins student loans, and increase access to college for millions of worthy American students.

The Democrat substitute is called, quote, reverse the raid on student aid. Don't believe the hype. Not one student in America will receive less financial aid under our bill. Not one.

The heart of our bill is the Pell Grant program. Let's look at this chart to show the history of Pell Grant funding over 20 years. The yellow represents when the Democrats were in control of Congress. The red represents when Republicans were in control of Congress. Does that look like we have raided student aid to you? The last 3 years Democrats were in control of Congress, they had a Democrat House and a Democrat President and they cut Pell Grants every single year in a row.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are sick and tired of partisan slogans and election-year double talk. This is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 609.

DEMOCRATIC REAL SECURITY PLAN: REAL SECURITY STARTS AT HOME

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday congressional Democrats unveiled our detailed agenda to fully secure our Nation. Since 9/11, we have worked to make America safer, and we have attempted to work in a nonpartisan way, the record will show. Immediately after 9/11, myself and some Democrats were given the assignment to structure ways of improving our intelligence, aiding our first responders, and securing our infrastructure.

And really it is unconscionable that some Republicans, some, have said that this party had to wait till yesterday to